



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 152

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2006

No. 109

Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, September 6, 2006)

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by Father Costa Christo of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, Wilmington, DE.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Be mindful, O Lord, of our civil authorities, of our Armed Forces by land, sea and air and of these God-crowned United States of America. Grant us peaceful times that we may lead a calm and tranquil life in all godliness and sanctity. Teach us to put away all bitterness and misunderstanding, all hatred and prejudice, that we may draw together as one family in Your caring embrace.

Bless and grant perfect health of mind and body to our esteemed Senators. Oversee them and protect them from every evil, adverse encounter, and distress. Direct their thoughts, Lord, in the way of truth, that they may enact, order, and enforce those things that are true, those things that are pure, those things that are just, tending toward all excellence and virtue. Grant unto them Your divine grace for their enlightenment to govern and lead the people of this Nation in the ways of righteousness.

Indeed, let them be Your instruments to bless our Nation and the entire world. For to You belong the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever more. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 7, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,

President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the first 30 minutes of session will be devoted to a morning business period for Senators to make statements. Shortly after 10 a.m., we will resume our work on the Defense appropriations bill. We worked into the evening last night and voted on a couple of the pending amendments. Therefore, we will finish the bill during today's session. The two managers can update us when we return to the bill, but it is my hope we can finish the bill early today and move on to other business. I know I can speak for the chairman and say it is imperative we do not delay this defense funding bill any longer and we move toward passage quickly.

Several committees have been meeting on the issue of port security. We should be ready to begin that impor-

tant Homeland Security bill next. We will have further updates during today's session as to the timing of finishing the Defense bill as well as the next order of business.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there is now a period of 30 minutes for the transaction of morning business, with the first half of the time under the control of the minority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise this morning as a point of personal privilege to welcome a friend and leader in our community in Wilmington, DE. Father Christo opened the Senate in prayer this morning. It may be the only time the entire Greek community in Wilmington, DE, was tuned in to C-SPAN as we opened up the morning session. I want this Senate to know and I hope my colleagues will get a chance to meet Father Christo.

Many who were raised with a parochial education got an opportunity to meet religious teachers. The kind of guy one always looked for was Father. Father is a guy whom everyone knew was much smarter than you. You knew he was probably a better athlete than you were. You knew he had thought through whatever you were thinking of before you thought it. And you also knew you could go to him whenever you needed help.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S9071

That is the role he continues to play with an adult parish in one of the most active communities in my State. The Greek-American community is small in our State, but it is extremely vibrant. Similar to many communities, the heart and soul of it is the church. The heart and soul of it is not only the spiritual center of the community, it is the political center of the community. I mean that in a nonpartisan way. It is the social center of the community. It is the community. It is the embodiment of community.

We have very important business this morning, and I will yield to my distinguished colleague, Senator CARPER.

I can say to Father, it is an honor to have him here this morning. I hope he has an even greater impression than I know he possessed when he came, of the majesty of this place. This is the people's Chamber. They talk about the people's House, this building, this Senate, all of the Capitol. Every time people come to visit, I remind them that this belongs to them. This is theirs. We are only here as hired hands for a while. I hope Father takes back to his parish the notion that there is an awful lot of good that can be done here.

I am delighted he took the time this morning to remind us of the relationship between temple, Government, and the spiritual leadership that comes directly and immediately from God. I thank him for that. I thank him for his generosity and leadership back home in our community beyond Holy Trinity. Thank you very much.

I yield the floor.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I add a couple of comments to the words of our colleague, Senator BIDEN, in welcoming Father Christo to the Senate Chamber today.

We are proud of our Constitution. Delaware was the first State to ratify the Constitution of our country. The Constitution calls for separation of church and state. Some people may find, given that as our heritage, it is unusual we begin each of our sessions in the Senate with an opening prayer.

Today, we are honored for all in Delaware, for everybody in the Greek community in our State, and everyone in the country, to be able to welcome one of our own to open the Senate in prayer.

I am struck by the number of times I talk to people in my State and around the country who say: We pray for you—not just me as an individual but for us as a collective body, as we meet. I always say: We welcome your prayers; keep praying. We certainly need those prayers.

I asked my staff to give me a little bit of background on Father, to say a few words. I have 10 pages of accomplishments. What a remarkable tale of accomplishment—and still a young pup.

I am honored you are here. Thank you for coming and starting our day on the right foot.

I would say to those people from other States, in talking to the Presiding Officer before the session began, he was asking where the Greek Church is in our State. If you come through Delaware on I-95, and a lot of people do, in the early part of June, you get off on Pennsylvania Avenue and head north a couple of blocks, make a left turn on Broom Street, you will find the Greek Church. They hold a great festival there. It is not only a church where people go for their souls, but three nights in the early part of June you can go there and enjoy great Greek food, dance, and drink. It is a wonderful time of fellowship with people who are Greek their whole lives and people who are Greek for a night or two.

We are honored by your presence, Father, and thank you for embracing us and thank you for your warm and wonderful prayer.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 15 minutes to speak in morning business.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CPL PHILLIP BAUCUS

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, west of Baghdad in Iraq's Al Anbar Province, the 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion of the 1st Marine Division rested for the night. On Saturday, June 29, a suicide bomber crashed his vehicle into a barrack. The structure collapsed. Four marines died. Among them was a 28-year-old corporal named Phillip Baucus. He is my nephew.

When I first took my wife Wanda to the family ranch many years ago, about 23, young Phillip, 5 or 6 years old, received Wanda. He walked up to Wanda and said: Wanda, welcome to the ranch. He had a wildflower in his hand and he gave it to Wanda. That is how he was.

Wanda and I had the sad duty at Dover Air Force Base to receive Phillip's casket. When we asked, they said, no, we could not touch his casket, but they reconsidered—the colonel did—and said, yes, it was all right for Wanda and let Wanda touch Phillip's casket. Beneath the flag that draped the casket, Wanda slipped a wildflower. That is how she is. North of Helena, in Montana's Lewis and Clark County, Phillip came to his final rest. On the afternoon of Sunday, August 6, more than 500 Montanans gathered under the willow trees of the family ranch to remember Phillip.

A Chinook helicopter flew overhead, a massive American flag draped below it. White doves were released into the sky. A bagpipe played "Amazing Grace," and the "Marine Corps Hymn." Bugles played "Taps." The funeral ended with a family tradition, a tradition that Phillip loved. We packed 2 pounds of black gunpowder, fired an

anvil weighing about 60 pounds several hundred feet into the air. It fell to the ground with a heavy thud.

Marines folded the flag that had covered Phillip's casket into a triangle and handed it to his widow Katherine. Phillip and Katherine had been married at that very same place less than a year before. Phillip's Marine colleague, Sergeant Raymond Rios, spoke to Phillip saying: "Baucus, you will always be here with every shadow, the sun shining and the trees blowing."

My brother John and I planted two trees there a few weeks ago on the ranch in memory of Phillip. They will blow in the winds and grow in the sun there in his memory. It was at that ranch where he was laid to rest on the same mountain where my father lies.

In the days since, I have been moved by the hundreds of handwritten notes I have received from Montanans, friends, and colleagues. I have been moved by these many tributes. In the Native American culture there is no greater honor than dying for your community, being a warrior. American Indians have answered this country's call to service in numbers far greater than their fair share of the population. When injured or killed in war, Native American service men and women are honored as fallen warriors. Their praises are sung before every powwow and special occasion.

I visited several Indian tribes last August. Time after time, I was honored when the tribal leaders honored Phillip as a fallen warrior. Following one tribal council meeting, an elderly grandmother asked if she could honor Phillip. She told me she had two grandsons in Iraq. She wanted to express her condolences to my family. She had made a quilt with the American flags interspersed throughout the quilt for the fallen warrior. She asked me to turn around. And reaching on her tiptoes, she draped the quilt around my shoulders. Then she embraced me.

(The remarks of Mr. BAUCUS pertaining to the introduction of S. 3865 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BAUCUS. I yield the floor.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The minority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, coincidentally, coming to the floor this morning, I signed two letters of condolences to families, one in northern Nevada—Silver Springs, NV—and one in Las Vegas, NV, to parents who lost young men in Iraq during the last week or so. I have signed lots of these letters for Nevadans, but signing one of these letters in the future will never be the same after listening to my friend from Montana.

When I first learned of Phillip's death, I said on the Senate floor: MAX BAUCUS has a son. I know him, a wonderful young man. But this nephew of Senator BAUCUS was like his second son. So in the future, when I sign these letters, I will think of MAX BAUCUS because it is easy, it is human nature, to